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William S Van Allen 04/19/2002 12:09:58 PM From DB/Inbox: William S Van Allen

Cable Text:

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TELEGRAM

April 17, 2002

To: SECSTATE WASHDC - IMMEDIATE  
Action: WHA  
From: AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN (GEORGETOWN 446 - IMMEDIATE)  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, KDEM, VE, GY  
Captions: None  
Subject: DEMARCHE ON SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY  
Ref: A) STATE 70865, B) STATE 70877, C) STATE 71650

1. The Ambassador gave ref B demarche and delivered the text of the White House statement to Foreign Minister Rudy Insanally in a meeting with him Apr. 16. He also handed over a copy of the OAS resolution on Venezuela as provided in ref A. The Ambassador expressed the hope that Chavez would now pursue a course of reconciliation and inclusivity. He emphasized the importance of the OAS fact-finding mission and special session Apr. 18 in stabilizing the situation. Post delivered to Insanally on Apr. 17 an aide memoire sharing USG hopes that the special session would adopt a resolution containing ref C provisions.

2. The Ambassador asked Insanally what effect current events in Venezuela might have on the effort to improve bilateral relations that began in late February when Venezuela's Foreign Minister Davila visited Guyana. Insanally expressed some concern on the effect political instability in Venezuela might have on attempts to resolve its claims to Guyana's territory. He fears that Chavez will use the issue to divert attention away from his political difficulties at home. Progress had been made in improving relations, but the most Guyana could do now was monitor the situation.

3. In a sign of concern about the Venezuelan situation, Guyana's Office of the President released the following statement on Apr. 15, after Chavez's return to office:  
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The Office of the President welcomes the return to democratic government in Venezuela and hopes peace and stability will be quickly restored to that country.

The loss of life, which accompanied the recent violence, is deeply regretted.

As a Government which subscribes to the practice of democracy and as a signatory - like Venezuela - to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, we firmly believe that constitutional rule should at all times prevail.

The Office of the President expects that with the return to normalcy in Venezuela, the Government of Guyana will be able to resume the programme of co-operation which the two countries had established at the High Level Commission meeting which was held in Georgetown, Guyana from 25th to 26th February 2002.

End Text.  
GODARD

Additional Addressees:  
None

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